



REGIONAL PARTNERSHIP GRANTS

GRANT PERIOD: 2017–2022

WEST VIRGINIA REGIONAL PARTNERSHIP FOR CHILDREN AND FAMILIES IMPACTED BY SUBSTANCE ABUSE

LEAD AGENCY: Pretera Center for Mental Health Services, Inc.

TARGET SERVICE AREA: Cabell, Lincoln, and Wayne counties, West Virginia

LOCATION: Huntington, West Virginia

ADMINISTRATION FOR CHILDREN AND FAMILIES REGION: 3

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT SERVED: WV-003

BRIEF PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION: The West Virginia Regional Partnership improves the well-being, safety, and permanency of children and their families involved with the child welfare system due to parental substance use through wraparound intensive care coordination and related services and supports. Wraparound ensures that each family member and the family as a whole receive the unique services and supports needed to overcome trauma; recover from substance use disorder (SUD); and to ensure safety, well-being, and permanency. The program improves confidential information sharing across the continuum of care, improves permanency services, and increases family therapy availability.

TARGET POPULATION: The West Virginia Regional Partnership for Children and Families serves children (up to age 12) and their families residing in the target area who are involved with the child welfare system due to parental substance use.

PROJECTED NUMBERS SERVED: The West Virginia Regional Partnership will serve 200 children over the course of the project.

MAJOR PROGRAM GOALS

- GOAL 1:** Improve safety, well-being, and permanency for 200 children and families.
- GOAL 2:** Increase capacity for family therapy by training community therapists and university students in an evidence-based therapy model.
- GOAL 3:** Establish a model for effective reunification services for children affected by parental substance use and make system improvement recommendations to the Bureau for Children and Families for WV children in out-of-home placements.
- GOAL 4:** Establish confidential information sharing processes between courts, the Bureau for Children and Families, schools, service providers, and the Bureau for Health and Health Facilities.

KEY PROGRAM SERVICES

- Clinical behavioral health/substance use services
- Peer support/recovery coaching for parents with SUD
- Wraparound Case Management

EXISTING OR PROPOSED PARTNERS

- Marshall University
- Children’s Home Society of West Virginia
- West Virginia Department of Health and Human Resources Bureau of Children and Families
- WVDHHR Bureau for Behavioral Health

EVALUATION DESIGN

The local evaluation of the Prestera Center for Mental Health Services’ West Virginia Regional Partnership (WVRP) includes an impact study, an implementation study, and a partnership study. The grantee is also participating in the RPG cross-site evaluation studies of family and child outcomes, program implementation, and collaboration among RPG grantees and partners.

IMPACT STUDY DESIGN

The grantee uses a quasi-experimental design to examine the impact of its RPG services. Members of the program group receive wraparound services, including intensive case management, Seeking Safety (in an in-home setting), Motivational Interviewing, and Eco-Systemic Structural Therapy. A care coordinator provides wraparound services, possibly with assistance from a family aide/therapist and/or a peer recovery coach. Services are provided for 6 to 12 months (longer if necessary). Members of the comparison group live in a West Virginia county not served by the RPG grant and receive treatment-as-usual services. The impact study includes 275 families, with 200 in the program group and 75 in the comparison group. The grantee will examine impacts in the following domains: permanency, safety, child well-being, family functioning, and recovery.

Data sources include administrative data and information gathered by data collectors. Trained interviewers and clinicians (frontline staff) use the standardized instruments to collect data for the program group, and evaluation staff use standardized instruments to collect data for the comparison group. For the program group, data collection takes place (1) when families begin services (baseline), (2) every six months for the first two years of the evaluation (at 6, 12, 18, and 24 months following baseline), and (3) annually after the 24-month follow-up and continuing for the duration of the evaluation. For the comparison group, data collection will take place (1) when families begin services (baseline), and (2) annually for the duration of the evaluation (that is, 12 months following baseline, 24 months following baseline, etc.).

PROCESS AND COLLABORATION STUDY DESIGN

In the implementation study, WVRP will focus on factors that influence maintenance or adherence to various types of treatment and how adherence to treatment relates to impacts or outcomes. WVRP also examines county staff capacity building, processes and norms related to data sharing between involved agencies and case managers, and promptness of family access to appropriate services. Data sources include program documents, case records, administrative data, interviews with frontline staff, focus groups with staff and participants, and information on training attendance and implementation.

In the partnership study, the grantee examines the regional partnership by administering the Collaborative Values Inventory and the Interagency Collaboration Activities Scale. Additional data sources include interviews and focus groups with evaluation staff to define and address any barriers to collaboration and to learn how to improve collaboration.

SUSTAINABILITY STRATEGIES AND ACTIVITIES

The West Virginia Regional Partnership will use their demonstrated track record of success from this project to attract sources of private and public funding. In addition, the West Virginia Department of Health and Human Services recognizes the potential implication for statewide practice, and with positive project results will consider sustaining the work by providing financial and programmatic support.

This grantee profile is supported by the Administration on Children, Youth, and Families Children's Bureau, under contract HHSS270201700001C. This content represents the work of The Center for Children and Family Futures, and does not reflect the opinions of the Administration on Children, Youth, and Families.